



THE LONDON HELIPORT AT BATTERSEA

The London Heliport Consultative Group
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/heliport

LONDON'S HELIPORT

The heliport first opened at Lombard Road, Battersea in 1959. It remains the only commercial heliport in the capital.

This leaflet has been written for people living close to the heliport and others who may be affected by its activities. It aims to explain how the heliport works and what procedures pilots should follow when approaching or departing.

LONDON HELIPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

This is an independent body which monitors heliport activities. It meets in public at Wandsworth Town Hall and includes residents' groups, industry representatives and local councillors from Wandsworth, Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea.

The group has published this leaflet as part of its commitment to improving public understanding of the heliport's activities.

For more information call Francis De Lima on (020) 8871 6488 or visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/heliport

HOURS AND FLIGHTS

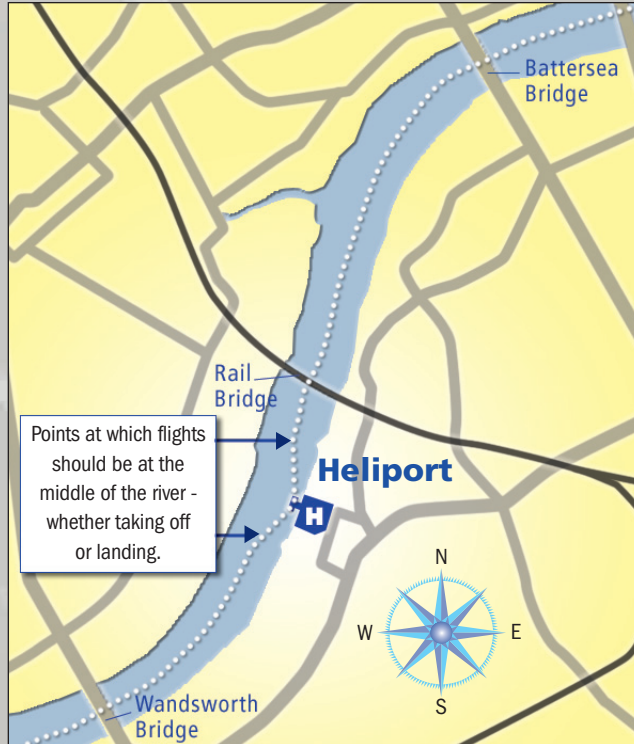
The heliport is open every day of the year - excluding Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day - from 7am to 11pm. On any one day the maximum number of movements allowed is 80 - a movement is one take-off or one landing. In addition there are five days when the limit is raised to 160. The heliport can accept up to 130 movements on other days provided the total for all these 'busy days' does not exceed 1,000. These busy days normally coincide with major events such as Cheltenham, The Derby, Royal Ascot and the Formula 1 Grand Prix. All these flights must be contained within an annual limit of 12,000. The heliport is also exempted from the daily limits during the Farnborough Air Show. This takes place every two years.

At the start of each year the heliport will publish details in advance of when these busy days will occur at www.londonheliport.co.uk.

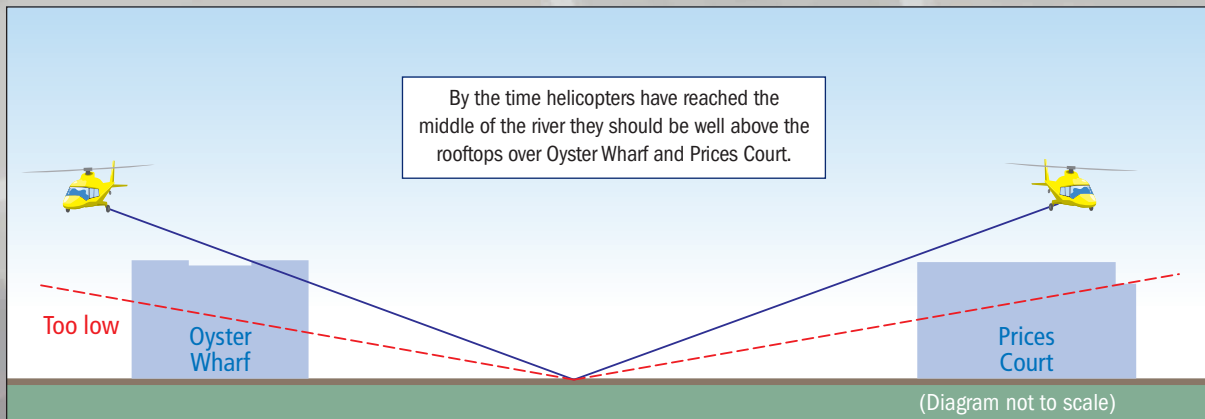
WEATHER CONDITIONS

Different weather conditions can affect the way helicopters are flown. If there is a strong north wind it may be safer for a helicopter leaving Battersea to travel a little further across the Thames before turning - while climbing - to follow the river. This manoeuvre must be authorised by air traffic control. Changes in air temperature and pressure can also make the helicopter appear noisier when turning or descending. In hot weather the air is less dense and at these times the helicopter may take longer to gain height once it leaves the helipad. Being nearer the ground for a longer period of time may cause more noise locally. Under some weather conditions the main rotor blades can also produce a noticeable throbbing sound which is known as "blade slap".

TAKE-OFFS AND LANDINGS



Helicopters approach from either the north-east or south-west. They will normally follow the middle of the river for as long as possible before turning to descend. Take-offs in either direction are also towards the middle of the river. It may be necessary on safety grounds to fly on the north or south side of the river. In this case the minimum height should be 1,000 feet for all but the initial take-off or descent.



The angle of ascent may be lower if the helicopter is fully laden or wind conditions are still.

ON THE GROUND

Helicopters standing with their engines running can be very noisy for people living close to the heliport. Sometimes clearance for take off can be delayed by the number of aircraft overhead - but in most cases the noise on the ground should last for no more than five minutes.

ROUTES

Single engine helicopters will normally use the designated routes shown on the map opposite. These tend to follow the river and open land and are kept at a safe distance from aircraft using Heathrow. Twin engine helicopters can take almost any route across London provided they do not conflict with Heathrow traffic.

MANAGING AIRSPACE

The airspace used by helicopters is managed by two authorities - Heathrow Radar in the west and Thames Radar - largely to the east of the heliport. The map opposite shows the area covered by the two control zones. This airspace will also be used by helicopters which are not flying into or out of Battersea.

POLICE AND MILITARY USE

Police and military helicopters can be particularly noisy. The police will fly at any time of night while both will often fly below the normal minimum heights. If they are using the heliport they must follow the normal rules on approach or departure. However there will be many occasions when they are not using the heliport. Police and military movements into and out of the heliport do not count against the annual 12,000 quota. The air ambulance and helicopters carrying Government VIPs or the Royal Family are also exempt.



HEIGHTS

On the designated routes helicopters must not fly below 500 feet. Over built-up areas the minimum height is 1,000 feet. Police helicopters and the air ambulance may fly at a lower height. The maximum height varies from 1,000 feet in the area largely to the west of the heliport to 1,500 feet in the east. This is to ensure proper separation from aircraft.

INFORMATION AND COMPLAINTS

You can seek information or report complaints about helicopter movements or pilot activities online at www.londonheliport.co.uk or call (020) 7228 0181 (8am-8pm). This service deals only with helicopters using the heliport.

It is important that residents provide as much detail as possible when contacting the heliport with a complaint including time, date, location and if possible, aircraft number. This will allow proper investigation of the incident.

The London Heliport Consultative Group, which is independent of the heliport, monitors all complaints and uses the information to identify the main issues of concern to the community and seek solutions.

Complaints about military helicopters can be made to the Ministry of Defence on (020) 7218 6020

Complaints or requests for information about helicopter activity not associated with the heliport can be made to the Civil Aviation Authority on (020) 7453 6525 or by email to ian.wrathall@dap.caa.co.uk

You can also find figures on helicopter movements across London at www.caa.co.uk

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